

# THE SOCIALIST & LABOR STAR

WORKINGMEN OF THE WORLD UNITE!

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## S. Senators Astounded at W. Va. Revelations

### Atrocities of The Coal Barons Their Hired Thugs Laid Bare

Eight days listening to the details of the treatment of their striking employees in the murderous coal operation on Cabin Creek coal field, the investigating Committee left Wednesday evening and returned to its work in Washington. Eight days of verification of the multitude of charges made against the coal barons by the independent press throughout the nation in the past year. Cold blooded murder on the part of the mine guards fully proven. Peonage was rampant and flourished undisturbed. Robbery of the most heinous kind has been carried on by the coal barons so long that it has become a habit, and it was shown that the coal companies, railways and the state governments had conspired to prevent a reform in the coal system—even in the face of open warfare between the miners and machine guns. Armed men from the coal companies made no effort to conceal their excitement and horror as they watched the Cabin Creek and Cabin Creek miners being killed before them by the mine guards. The widows of the miners, after a year of the struggle, waged against greed and machine guns.

Upon the unsuspecting miners' camp under cover of darkness and poured volley after volley of death dealing bullets from rifles and machine guns into it. Calvin swore that the rifles used were put aboard the train by soldiers stationed at Pratt, and that the attack on the camp was totally unprovoked. He gave the names of those on the train and declared that after the train had passed through the camp, dealing out a continuous stream of fire. Quinn Morton, a coal operator and one of the attacking party, ran up to Sheriff Bonner Hill, who was also on the train, and said: "Let's go back and give the damned red-necks another round." But the sheriff had grown squeamish and forbade a return, giving as his excuse to Morton that they ought not shoot the women and children.

Another splendid witness was Tom Felts, who confessed that he was half owner and general manager of the Baldwin-Feltz Association. He acknowledged that at one time he had 110 armed men on Cabin Creek alone and that these men had operated the guns purchased by the mine owners. He also told of having "secret service" men in the field who posed as strikers, joined the unions and acted as

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### Socialist Printing Co. Brings Suit

After every effort to get a peaceful settlement for the damages inflicted upon their business and equipment when the Socialist & Labor Star was confiscated by militiamen during the night of May 8-9, had failed The Socialist Printing Company, through its attorney, Harold W. Houston, entered suit in the Cabell county circuit court Wednesday, for damages to the amount of \$10,000.

The suit is styled The Socialist Printing Company, a corporation, vs. Henry D. Hatfield, Thomas B. Davis, Foster Templeton, Heber Rice, Grover Ripperfoe, and others. Process has been issued for the defendants, returnable at the July term of court.

The Socialist Printing Company is a young concern but had built up an extensive business, especially in mail orders for job printing and book sales. Its business was completely ruined when Hatfield ordered the plant confiscated because The Star which was printed thereat had severely criticized his methods of settling strikes.

Taking him as he means, Senator Martine of New Jersey, has the idea firmly fixed that West Virginia is all right except that she is in the hands of greedy, relentless, bloody pirates.

### Debs To Defend That Report?

Editor Socialist & Labor Star,  
Dear Comrade:

Please give me space for a few words.

In your issue of June 13th you have an article covering several columns entitled "Socialists Failed As Investigators" and sub-headed "Their Report a Weak Mass of Misstatements in Regard to Present Conditions and a Sickening Eulogy of Dictator Hatfield."

You sweepingly condemn the report of the committee but do not publish it.

Please publish in your next issue, along with this, a few of this "mass of misstatements" and also an extract or two from the "sickening eulogy of Dictator Hatfield."

If there is in our report a "mass of misstatements" or a "sickening eulogy of Dictator Hatfield" our report should be repudiated; and if you have brought false charges your paper should be repudiated.

The report speaks for itself. Let the rank and file read and judge.

Yours fraternally,  
EUGENE V. DEBS  
Terre Haute, Ind., June 16, 1913.

The above from Comrade Debs

reaches me just as we are preparing to go to press with this abbreviated issue of the paper. Consequently we cannot go thoroughly into a defense of our last week's article or another discussion of the report in question.

However, we quote here a few of the more glaring misstatements, reserving comment for the present:

"The committee lost no time in getting in touch with the local comrades and the striking miners."

"We have no desire to exculpate Governor Hatfield."

"It was under the administration of Glasscock and not Hatfield that Mother Jones, John Brown, C. H. Boswell and numerous others were court martialed and convicted."

"By act of the recent legislature the mine guard system was practically abolished, and for the first time in the industrial history of West Virginia the workers can now hold union and labor meetings free from interference."

"At the close of our labors we rejoiced to see the better understanding that existed between the U. M. W. of A. and the Socialists. We left the comrades in the best of spirits."

I brand each and all of the above as "misstatements" and I consider them wholly inexcusable, coming from the source they did, and very hurtful to the cause of the struggling workers in this state.

In regard to what we term "an eulogy of Dictator Hatfield," the report so abounds in the cheap subterfuges usually employed by the capitalist press when they wish to avoid direct responsibility for a statement, that it is difficult in this short article to make plain just what is meant. The report in exonerating Hatfield of the many charges brought against him by the West Virginia Socialists invariably begins with "it is claimed," "the governor said," "the governor declared," etc. In referring to the FACT that Hatfield threatened the strikers imprisonment and deportation if they did not accept HIS terms and return to work, the report declares: "It is emphatically denied that such threat was ever made."

This from the "investigators":

"The governor disclaims responsibility for certain acts with which he had been unjustly charged. He had not only not declared martial law but asserted that he was as much opposed to it as anyone could possibly be. The reason he permitted it to remain effective was because he was requested to do so by the UNION MINERS

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## Mother Jones to Speak Here

George H. Goebel and Harold W. Houston Also  
Billed for This City

Next week will see a great revival of Socialism in Huntington.

On Monday night Geo. H. Goebel, national Socialist lecturer, will speak at the corner of Ninth street and Third avenue under the auspices of the local Socialist organization.

Comrade Goebel is well grounded in Socialist philosophy, is eloquent, witty and versatile. He comes to Huntington after spending a week listening to the evidences of brutality practiced on the miners, as presented to the Senate Committee at Charleston, and is sure to have interesting things to say. Hear him Monday night at 8:00 o'clock.

Mother Jones, the angel of the miners, accompanied by Harold W. Houston, will pay Huntington another visit on Thursday and both she and Houston will deliver addresses Thursday night. Arrangements for these meetings have not yet been completed. Watch for hand bills containing full particulars.

### Kanawha Miners' Strike Is To Be Renewed

New River Miners Will Also Strike Within Next Few Days, Following Failure of Peaceful Negotiations

As predicted in our article of two weeks ago, "A Case Wherein A 'Settlement' Does Not Settle" the Paint Creek and Cabin Creek miners have formally repudiated the so-called Hatfield settlement, and demanded of the U. M. W. of A. that the strike be declared still existent, and that the few men whom the operators permitted to return to work be called out to join their numerous comrades who were black-listed.

This action was taken at a monster mass meeting held in the mountains back of Kayford on last Sunday, and means that the struggle for liberty up in these mountains will be carried on until victory crowns the efforts of these brave and loyal workers.

The New River Situation.

The negotiations which have been

pending for some time between the New River mine owners and the United Mine Workers and which it was hoped would result in a peaceful agreement whereby the rights of the miners would be recognized by the coal barons, has apparently come to naught and a strike of all union men in that field will probably be ordered early in the coming week.

Fifteen thousand men are expected to answer the first call.

Victor Berger's explanation that Governor Hatfield was not familiar with labor conditions in West Virginia leads to the inquiry why, then, did Hatfield, as a candidate, promise to remove the evils from which the miners suffered?